

Title: The First Americans

Primary Subject Area: Social Studies
Archaeology

Grade Level: Middle School

Overview:

The first peoples in North America and Louisiana were the Native Americans. They have left their legacy in North American and in Louisiana particularly. This unit will allow the student the opportunity to explore the First Americans and Louisianans. They student will learn about the prehistoric Indian cultures, as well as historic Indian cultures. They will also be exposed to Native American sites, such as Poverty Point. The student will also be exposed to the elements of Native American culture that still remain today.

Approximate Duration: Unit duration of 3 weeks or more.

Louisiana Framework

Strands and Content Standards: Social Studies

Benchmarks:

G-1B-M4, C-1A-M2, E1A-M6, H-1A-mi, G-1C-M3, G-1C-M4,

Social Studies

E-1A-M8, H-1A-M2, H-1B-M1

Interdisciplinary Connections: Social Studies, Language Arts, Science.

Objectives:

- 1.) TLW explain the role of archaeology in the study of prehistoric Louisiana cultures and how information about Native Americans has been obtained.
- 2.) TLW identify the significance of the Poverty Point site.
- 3.) TLW learn about the Native American groups who originally lived in their area.
- 4.) TLW explain the role artifacts have played in telling the Indian story.
- 5.) TLW relate environment of the Indians to the ways they made a living.
- 6.) TLW identify artifacts of prehistoric Indians.

Materials: - books, videos, audio tapes on Native Americans.

Resources:

Anthropological Study Series, No. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7. Louisiana Division of Archaeology

Campbell, Anne. Louisiana The History of an American State. Birmingham, AL, Clairmont Press, 1999 (Textbook)

Campbell, Anne. Louisiana The History of an American State. Birmingham, AL, Clairmont Press, 1999. (Teacher's Guide and Black Line Master)

Classroom Archaeology. Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

Dethloff, Henry C. Louisiana A Study in Diversity. Austin, TC, Steck-Vaughn Company, 1992. (Textbook)

Dethloff, Henry C. Louisiana A Study in Diversity. Austin, TC, Steck-Vaughn Company, 1992. (Teacher's Guide)

Eakin, Sue, Dr. Louisiana The Land and Its People. Gretna, LA, Pelican Publishing Co., 1998. (Textbook)

Eakin, Sue, Dr. Louisiana The Land and Its People. Gretna, LA, Pelican Publishing Co., 1998. (Teacher's Resource Book)

Louisiana Indians Long Ago. Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

Marsh, Carol. LOUISIANA INDIANS: A Kid's Look at Our State's Chiefs, Tribes, Reservations, Powwows, Lore and More From the Past & the Present!

Marsh, Carol. LOUISIANA JURASSIC PARK!: Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Creatures That Once Roamed Our State!

McDonald, Jane, Dr. Social Studies Mind Stretchers. Grand Rapids, MI, Instructional Fair, 1998.

Nordgarden, Carol. Create A Cultures: A Complete Framework for Student to Use in Creating and Original Culture. Santa Barbara, CA, The Learning Works, Inc., 1995.

O'Halloran, Kate. 61 Cooperative Learning Activities in U. S. History. Portland, ME, J. Weston Walch Publishers, 1996.

STARLAB Planetarium Native American Constellations Cylinder Unit Plan.

VanCleave, Janice. Geography For Every Kid. New York. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993.

Debbie Bucu, M.Ed. Poverty Point. Baton Rouge. Division of Archaeology, 1999.

Technology Connection:

Websites:

<http://www.alpha.nsula.edu/departments/folklife/>

<http://crt.state.la.us>

Reproducible Materials:

Marsh, Carol. Louisiana Indians: A Kid's Look at Our State's Chiefs, Tribes, Reservations, Powwows, Lore & More From the Past & the Present!

Nobles, Connie. Louisiana Archaeology: Context Game. Southeastern Louisiana University.

Assessment Procedures: assignments, projects, tests, games

Exploration and Extension:

- Explore the time period in North America and Louisiana prior to the arrival of the early people. Louisiana Jurassic Park! Dinosaurs & Other Prehistoric Creatures That Once Roamed Our State! By Carol Marsh

Teaching Techniques:

1. Have an **Archaeologist** discuss a dig. (An archaeology activity guide for teachers, Classroom Archaeology, is available from the Division of Archaeology at Baton Rouge.)
2. The book *The Historic Indian Tribes of Louisiana from 1542 to Present*, by Fred B. Kniffen, Hiram F. Gregory, and George A. Stokes, is an invaluable source of information. The highly readable book not only contains information about the lifestyles of Louisiana Indians and other information not found in any other book, but it also contains a complete compilation of references at the end of each chapter. The book is a **MUST** as a teacher reference, and it lends itself to in-depth studies of all types for high-average-and-above groups as well.
3. Take a class **field trip** to a museum to view Indian relics.

Suggested Activities:

1. **Focus Activity.** This activity is called “paper-bag archaeology.” Prepare 4-5 bags filled with clean garbage (preferably from different families). Teams of students analyze the garbage to determine as much as they can about the lifestyle of the family. The teams should share their conclusions with the class. Conclude the activity with a discussion on archaeology.
2. **Writing Activity.** Archaeologists assume that Poverty Point played a very important part in the life of prehistoric people. Choose a place in Louisiana today that is important to many people (for example, the LSU Stadium, the Superdome, a large shopping mall, courthouse, fair grounds). Tell students to write a descriptive paper of the activities that help define this place. Note: A prewriting activity could be done by developing a chart comparing Poverty Point with the subject of their writing.

Alternative Assessment:

*Ask students to survey their homes to identify ten items that an Archaeologist of the future can use to interpret our culture.